



EMS COVID-19 Vaccine Information

12/16/2020

Purpose

This overview supports the Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Plan and outlines the actions and procedures that the State of Minnesota will take to vaccinate Minnesota emergency medical services (EMS) providers.

Scope

This overview is also intended to provide information and guidance for local, regional, state, and tribal partner agencies in their support of the state-level plan.

Situational overview

The Minnesota Department of Health will follow Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations where health care workers fall under priority category 1a. Health care workers in category 1a are defined as hospital, emergency medical services, and long-term care staff who provide direct patient care.

Minnesota has an estimated 27,600 people who provide emergency medical services and are credentialed through the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB). Those providers work for licensed Minnesota ambulance services or are part of other emergency medical services response agencies, such as medical response units, fire departments, and law enforcement. In addition, those working for ambulance services in Minnesota transport patients, often over long distances in confined spaces, which puts them at increased risk of getting infected with COVID-19 due to close proximity and length of time of exposure to patients.

COVID-19 vaccine allocation and considerations

- 1) Emergency medical services personnel to receive vaccine during Phase 1a are defined in [Minnesota Guidance for Allocating and Prioritizing COVID-19 Vaccine \(PDF\)](#)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/phase1aguide.pdf>) and listed in the following table.

- 2) It is expected that Phase 1a will take at minimum of two to three months to vaccinate every person in that group, including other health care workers and long-term care residents.
- 3) Emergency medical services vaccine distribution points:
 - a. Emergency medical services personnel affiliated with hospitals will be vaccinated by their employer.
 - b. Emergency medical personnel not affiliated with a hospital are included in emergency medical services regional and/or public health vaccination plans.
 - i. For questions about emergency medical services regional plans, refer to the Ambulance Service Contact below.
 - c. Note: Other first response agencies and individuals who are not in Phase 1a will receive vaccination in a later phase, as defined in MDH guidance documents.
- 4) Vaccines do have side effects. Consider staffing patterns as part of overall plans, such as staggering staff to receive vaccine to accommodate potential staffing shortages and sick time.

Phase 1a EMS personnel and vaccine distribution points

| | Emergency Medical Services Personnel Definition | Vaccine Distribution Points |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| Category 1A First Priority | <p>Individuals providing direct patient care as part of the emergency medical services system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air ambulance pilots • Ground ambulance drivers • Physicians • Physician assistants • Nurses <p>AND</p> <p>Personnel certified or registered by the Minnesota EMS Regulatory Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paramedics • Advanced emergency medical technicians • Emergency medical technicians • Emergency medical responders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital affiliate • Emergency medical services regional system • Public health |

Phase 1a EMS vaccination contact information

| EMS Region | Ambulance Service Contact | Other credentialed personnel and first response agencies |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Central Region | Marion Larson: 320-259-3948 | Local Public Health |
| Metro Region | Ron Robinson: 651-643-8378 | Local Public Health |
| Northeast Region | Arrowhead EMS: 218-726-0070 | Local Public Health |
| Northwest Region | Tom Vanderwal: 218-556-4190 | Local Public Health |
| South Central Region | Mark Griffith: 507-257-3224 | Local Public Health |
| Southeast Region | Southeast EMS: 507-536-9333 | Local Public Health |
| Southwest Region | Ann Jenson: 320-212-8042 | Local Public Health |
| West Central Region | Mark McCabe: 320-762-1881 | Local Public Health |



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Contact health.communications@state.mn.us to request an alternate format.